Annual Administration Report of the Rural Development Department in the Province of Bombay

For the Year 1941-42

BOMBAY

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Poona I: 27th July 1942.

From

S. M. IKRAM, Esq., I.C.S.,

Registrar, Co-operative Societies and Director of Rural Development, Bombay Province, Poona I;

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Revenue Department, Secretariat, Fort, Bombay.

Subject.—Administration Report. Rural Development Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to invite reference to Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. P. 397, dated 10th May 1941, on the subject mentioned above, and to submit herewith the Annual Administration Report on the working of the Rural Development Department for the year ending 31st March 1942. As required by paragraph 4 of the Government Resolution referred to above, it has been considered and generally approved at a meeting of the committee consisting of the Commissioners of Divisions, the Director of Agriculture and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Director of Rural Development, held on 11th July 1942.

I. ADMINISTRATION.

(1) STAFF.

2. The responsibility for the control of the Rural Development staff and the co-ordination of rural development activities continued to be with the officers of the Revenue Department. The question of the lines on which the Rural Development staff, especially the Assistant Rural Development Inspectors, should function was considered at the Collectors' Conference held in Poona in September 1941 and in the light of the discussion at the Conference, Government issued detailed instructions indicating the lines on which the most effective use could be made of the Assistant Rural Development Inspectors in furtherance of the rural development programme for each taluka.

The Shikar staff (consisting of 2 Shikar Officers of the rank of Rural Development Inspector, and 7 Assistant Shikar Officers of the rank of Assistant Rural Development Inspector) which was assigned to the Agricultural Department on deamalgamation, was transferred to the Rural Development Department and placed under the administrative control of the Divisional Commissioners from 1st March 1942.

Except for the addition of the shikar staff as mentioned above, the strength of the Rural Development Inspectors and Assistant Rural Development Inspectors working under the control of the Revenue Department remained the same as under :—

Rural Development Inspectors	..	19
Assistant Rural Development Inspectors	..	132

3. The question regarding the formation of a separate cadre for the Rural Development Inspectors and the revision of pay scales and prospects of the Assistant Rural Development Inspectors is at present under the consideration of Government. It is expected that when these proposals materialise it will be possible to attract better type of recruits to these posts.

(2) Rural Development Boards.

Provincial Rural Development Board.

4. Under the new rural development plans of Government, it was considered necessary to reconstitute the Provincial Rural Development Board so as to bring it into closer touch with the rural development activities in the districts, with the co-operative organizations and with various Government Departments concerned with rural economy. Accordingly, Government orders were issued reconstituting the Provincial Rural Development Board. The distinguishing feature of the Board as reconstituted is that apart from the ex-officio and nominated members, adequate representation has been given to the principal bodies concerned with rural economy, viz., the District Rural Development Boards, the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank, the Bombay Co-operative Marketing Society, District Central Co-operative Banks, District Boards of Supervising Unions and the Agricultural, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Institute, Anand.

The first meeting of the reconstituted Board was held in January 1942 at Bombay and was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor. Its deliberations were presided over by the Adviser to the Governor.

5. Except in Bijapur and Sholapur, where rural development work is carried on by the Wilson Anti-Famine Institute and the Rural Development Association, respectively, Rural Development Boards have been formed in all districts. In the Bombay Suburban District, a separate Board was constituted in June 1941. Similarly, 2 separate Boards were constituted for the Broach and Panch Mahals Sub-Divisions in the Broach and Panch Mahals District. In almost all cases the constitution of the Boards has been overhauled and they now normally consist of the ex-officio members, representing various departments in the district, and other members either nominated by Government or elected by various interests such as cottage industries, land holders and different associations working in the district. Under the revised constitution, the Collector of the district is Chairman of the Board and also Chairman of the Executive Committee constituted for carrying out the various items of rural development work decided upon by the Board.

District Rural Development Boards.

(3) Taluka and Village Organizations.

6. In several districts, Taluka or Petha Improvement Committees have been formed with the Mamlatdars or Mahalkaris as their Chairmen. The Taluka Improvement Committees formed in the Broach and Panch Mahals, Dharwar and Kanara, are reported to be doing particularly good work. In Kanara, some of the Taluka Village Improvement Associations were reorganized for giving adequate representation to rural areas. In Sholapur, there are 7 Taluka Village Improvement Committees (one for each taluka) and 7 Taluka Development Associations. The work of these taluka organizations has been divided and the agricultural side has been entrusted to the Taluka Development Associations, while other items of rural development have been entrusted to the village Improvement Committees. These bodies work in co-operation with each other. In Poona, there are Taluka Village Improvement Committees in each of the Talukas and Pethas, but they have not been functioning regularly and satisfactorily. Only the Village Improvement Committee formed for Poona City and Haveli Taluka has been doing satisfactory work.

Taluka Organisations.

7. In addition to Taluka Improvement Committees, there also exist several Village Improvement Committees for carrying out rural development work in the villages concerned. In Kanara there are 143 Village Improvement Associations, some of which are reported to be doing good work. In this district, the Secretaries of 34 Village Panchayats were asked to collect statistics for their Panchayat areas with a view to making these villages serve as models for intensive rural development work. In Kaira, there are 80 village Uplift Committees, while in Ratnagiri, there are 25 Village Improvement Committees which carry out different items of rural development work.

Village Improvement Committees.

(4) Finance.

8. The appended statement will show the expenditure incurred on rural development during the financial year 1941–42, under the various heads shown in the statement (*vide* Statement No. 1).

II. CO-ORDINATIONS BETWEEN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

9. With a view to co-ordinating the activities of various departments working in the districts, co-ordination meetings were held in all districts. All such meetings are reported to ave bee. well attended and cordial co-operation was offered by the officers concerned. In Satara one su h meeting was presided over by tl.e Adviser to the Governor at which 40 subjects were discussed. The Adviser also attended the co-ordination meetings held at Thana and Bombay Suburban District.

In addition to the quarterly co-ordination meetings of officers of all departments which have any connection with village life, Government issued orders in September 1941 that bi-monthly meetings of district officers directly connected with rural development should be held. In view of these arrangements made for bi-monthly meetings, Government later ordered that it was not necessary to hold quarterly co-ordination meetings and that only two such meetings during the year would suffice.

These bi-monthly meetings were accordingly held in all districts at which the progress of rural development work done during the previous two months was reported, and the programmes of work to be done during the subsequent two months were approved.

In some districts, the Prant Officers also called smaller co-ordination meetings at suitable places in their jurisdi tion which were attended by the various local officers and which helped, to a considerable extent, in carrying out satisfactorily the work of rural development.

III. AGRICULTURE.

(1) Land Development.

10. The question of preventing soil erosion by the construction of suitable bunds on scientific lines has been receiving increasing attention from the Agricultural Department and the Rural Development Boards. The urgency of the problem varies from district to district and so there is a marked disparity in the expenditure and attention devoted to this question in various districts, but the importance of the question is generally recognized and the District Rural Development Boards in most districts in the Deccan, in the Bijapur district, and in the Panch

Mahals Sub-Division have made substantial efforts to deal with the problem. The total length of bunds constructed was 13·96 lakhs feet while the total area of lands protected was 25,172 acres as against 15,045 acres the previous year.

11. In Nasik, propaganda for bunding was carried on by the two bunding kamgars appointed for the purpose and bunds were constructed which have protected an area of 3,774 acres. Much headway was made in West Khandesh in bunding operations and bunds of the length of 2,75,127 feet were constructed, protecting an area of 5,094 acres. In Poona, with the help of a special bunding staff, lands of about 50 applicants were surveyed and plans and estimates prepared for the bunding of their lands, while in Satara, bunding was done over an area of 1,297 acres with the help of a bunding sub-overseer appointed by the Board.

In East Khandesh, bunding kamgars were specially appointed and bunds were constructed at 24 places which benefited an area of 6,433 acres. The total length of bunds constructed was over 5 lakhs feet. In Ahmednagar, agriculturists were encouraged to bund their lands either by their own labour or by taking tagai loans. The total area thus bunded during the year was 4,043 acres.

In Broach and Panch Mahals, protective bunding became an important question for the hilly tract in the eastern part of the Panch Mahals Sub-Division. A bunding scheme was drawn up for 5 villages and the area which was protected by the scheme came to nearly 887 acres.

In Bijapur also considerable bunding work has been done. The total length of bunds constructed comes to over 3·95 lakhs feet, while the approximate area protected by the bunds comes to 5,600 acres. An amount of Rs. 17,383 was paid as bunding subsidy in 49 villages. In future, such subsidies will only be given to large approved schemes under which areas in blocks of over 200 acres only will be undertaken for bunding. Many applications have been received under this revised scheme.

During the year under report, Government deputed a party of officers headed by Mr. Dalley, Conservator of Forests, to study the work of organization of the Soil Conservation Circle of the Punjab Forest Department. Mr. Dalley's report, which was submitted on the 3rd December 1941, was considered by the Provincial Rural Development Board in January 1942. Government orders on the report were issued in February 1942.

The Director of Agriculture has been instructed to proceed with soil conservation schemes or "developmental projects" in selected villages and also to train as many men as possible in bunding work.

(2) Introduction of :

(i) *Improved Tillage Methods.*

12. In rural areas, various improved methods of cultivation are being increasingly adopted according to the type of land and nature of crops grown. They mostly consist of wider sowing, frequent interculturing, planting sugarcane in ridges and furrows instead of in flat beds, etc. Wider planting and frequent interculturing of sugarcane were extended in Nasik and West Khandesh. In Satara, the improved methods of sowing jowar at a distance of about 2 feet was followed in Walwa and Tasgaon talukas, and cultivators who followed this method were given an encouragement grant of Rs. 5 per acre by the District Rural Development Board. Wider sowing of crops on ridges was demonstrated in Surat district through the Taluka Demonstration Centres.

(ii) *Improved Implements.*

13. The officers of the Agricultural Department, the Rural Development Staff and the kamgars of Taluka Development Associations continued propaganda and demonstrations of improved implements to show their advantages in comparison with the old indigenous agricultural implements. There is now an increased demand for improved implements like ploughs, levellers, harrows and winnowing fans, etc. Owing to the rise in the cost of these implements on account of the war, many agriculturists are not in a position to purchase them, but they are let out on hire by the Taluka Development Associations, Implements Societies, and Agricultural Requisites Societies and the departmental depots, and a very large number of cultivators have taken advantage of these facilities.

Iron Ploughs.

14. The use of iron ploughs is on the increase in several districts. In Nasik, the use of these implements has become common in the deshi part of the district and it is estimated that about 51,000 acres have been ploughed by ploughs hired from the departmental depots and Taluka Development Associations. In Satara, more than 3 lakhs of acres were ploughed by iron ploughs. In Ahmedabad, among the improved implements, Cooper ploughs are becoming popular and 9 such ploughs were distributed at 25 per cent. concession rates by the Rural Development Board.

Other Implements.

15. Iron levellers, harrows, winnowing fans, sprayers, dust guns and plant-pullers are other impr ved implements which are being popularised in different parts of the Province. In West Khandesh, the District Rural Development Board decided to set apart Rs. 200 to provide plant-pullers to cultivators at half their normal price. The Kaira D strict Rural Development Board provided a grant of Rs. 235 for improved implements, which was spent through Taluka Development Associations. In Ahmedabad, the cultivators are using wider sowing drills prepared locally for cotton and wheat. Other

implements like Allan Gandhi hoes, iron levellers and Sayan harrows are obtainable on hire from various agencies and are being used by the agriculturists on a larger scale. In Broach and Panch Mahals, a number of chaff-cutters, wheat-threshers, plant-pullers, and winnowers were sold at concession rates. As a result of propaganda in Ratnagiri, the villagers purchased 25 dust guns for sulphur dusting against hoppers and mildew.

(iii) *Manure.*

16. On account of war conditions the prices of artificial manures generally ruled high and as a result groundnut cake was used as manure to an increased extent. Sann and dhaincha green manuring also received considerable impetus and more manure pits were dug and more cart loads of compost were prepared to make good the deficiency in inorganic manures.

Groundnut cake and other cakes.

17. In Nasik, large quantities of groundnut cake were supplied as manure by the Taluka Development Associations for garden crops, while in East Khandesh, very intensive propaganda was carried on with much success through Taluka Development Associations, Supervising Unions and Co-operative Credit Societies for the use of groundnut cake as manure. About 2,000 tons of the cake were distributed amongst members of co-operative societies alone. In Broach aud Panch Mahals, intensive propaganda was carried on for using groundnut cake for top dressing of sugarcane. In Satara, nearly 3 lakhs lbs. of oil cakes of groundnut and karanj were used for the same purpose.

In Ahmedabad, castor cake was used on a comparatively large scale for manuring paddy crop.

Compost manure.

18. Efforts for preparing and utilising compost manure were continued. In Nasik, 800 cart loads of compots were prepared in Yeola and Baglan talukas by utilising leaves and refuse. Nearly 300 manure pits were got dug in several villages with a view to conserve cattle manure and also to improve the clean iness of the villages. In West Kandesh, propaganda done by the staff of the Taluka Development Assocations resulted in 1,235 manure pits being dug and 564 cart loads of compost being prepared

Sann green manure.

19. The use of sann green manuring for irrigated crops is on the increase. In Ahmedabad, sann seed was sown in an area of about 200 acres for purposes of green manuring. In Broach and Panch Mahals, intensive propaganda was carried on for using sann seed a. green manuring.

Other Commercial Fertilizers.

20. In Satara and Kanara, notwithstanding a rise in the prices of artificial manures, cultivators made use of ammonium sulphate and bonemeal to a considerable extent, the details of which are given in the relevant statement. In Belgaum,

artificial manures were used on a large scale and as will be seen from the statement, 5·77 lakhs lbs. of sulphate of ammonia, etc., and 68,000 lbs. of bonemeal were distributed to the cultivators through suitable agencies.

(3) SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Seed Multiplication and Distribution Scheme.

21. An important activity of the Rural Development Boards relates to the arrangements hich have now been made for the multiplication and distribution of the improved varieties of seeds of different crops. Prior to amalgamation of the district staffs of the Agricultural and Co-operative Departments in March 1939, the responsibility for organization, execution, and supervision of this work vested almost entirely with the Agricultural Department, though that Department was assisted in some districts by the Revenue Department and Co-operative organizations like the Taluka Development Associations. After the reorganization of the Rural Development Department in January 1941, steps were taken in all districts to put this work on a systematic and standardized basis. The Director of Agriculture accordingly prepared a model scheme for the "Organization of seed multiplication and distribution of improved crops (other than cotton) on a taluka basis", which has been adopted in various districts for the crops which are grown in those areas. Broadly speaking, the scheme consists of two parts. During the first two years or the "Primary Seed Multiplication stage", the scheme is under the direct control of the Agricultural Department, and consists of the supply of improved seeds during the first year from the Government Seed Farm to the Taluka Seed Multiplication Centres, and during the second year of supply of the multiplied seed from the Taluka Multiplication Centres to approved society or individual seed growers. The "Secondary Seed Multiplication and Distribution stage" is carried out and supervised by the Revenue and/or the Co-operative Department. This stage may extend over a further period of one or more years' multiplication of seed and will include the ultimate distribution of the improved seed to the cultivators in the villages and its general introduction throughout the talukas.

22. In accordance with this model scheme, various Rural Development Boards adopted programmes suitable to local conditions, selecting the talukas which should be taken up for multiplication and distribution work in the beginning and also the crops which should be taken up first. As the year under report was the first year in the case of most districts, the seed was generally obtained from the farms under the Agricultural Department, and made available for further multiplication. The reports received from the various districts show that except in one or two areas (e.g., Poona district and Olpad taluka in Surat district), where on account of unfavourable weather conditions, success could not be achieved, the scheme has made a very good beginning in the Province.

23. The following is a brief account of the activities under various crops :—

Work in the Districts.

Wheat.—In West Khandesh, wheat strain No. 168 was selected for multiplication in five talukas. In all, 5,400 lbs. of seed sufficient for 88 acres were distributed. In Ahmedabad, wheat strain No. 224 was multiplied and the resultant seed was purchased for further distribution, while in East Khandesh, wheat seed of different varieties was multiplied.

Jowar.—In Broach Sub-Division, Rabi Jowar No. 8 was multiplied and seed to the extent of 7,200 lbs. was obtained, while in Surat, 11,000 lbs. of Jowar B. P. 53 was supplied to 200 cultivators for multiplication. In Satara, Maldandi Jowar was multiplied in two talukas and would be sufficient for 200 acres.

Paddy.—In Kanara, different strains of paddy obtained from the Kumta and Mugad Farms were taken up for multiplication and the area covered by such seed during the year was 24,000 acres. Similarly, in Kolaba, the scheme of multiplication of a pure strain of paddy seed was undertaken at 11 centres. In Belgaum, the model paddy multiplication scheme was continued and over 50,000 lbs. of seed were distributed to cover an area of 993 acres.

Gram.—In Nasik, the District Rural Development Board adopted a seed multiplication scheme for gram in five talukas. Pure seed was given to seed growers which produced approximately 16,000 lbs. which is being purchased and stored for further multiplication.

In Dharwar, seeds of paddy, wheat and groundnut are being multiplied according to an approved plan. The seed, which is stocked at important centres, would be sufficient to cover one lakh of acres.

General Seed Distribution Work.

24. In addition to the seed multiplication and distribution work which was taken up by the District Rural Development Boards in accordance with the scheme outlined above, the work of supplying of improved seeds of other crops which were not locally available or were available only at high prices was also taken up. In Nasik, over 88,000 lbs. of seed potato were obtained from Simla and distributed to cultivators in the potato growing area which covers about 1,115 acres. In Poona also, arrangements were made to supply 12,820 maunds of Numbri potatoes, and tagavi loans were freely given for purchasing potato seed.

In Kaira, the District Rural Development Board sanctioned Rs. 1,425 for distribution of improved seed at concession rate. In Kanara, the Rural Development staff distributed 1,70,000 sets of improved sugarcane (H.M. 544 variety) which yields a higher tonnage of richer juice and also gives *gul* of superior quality. In Bijapur, two co-operative Cotton Sale Societies supplied over 20·48 lakhs lbs. of improved cotton seed.

(4) Crop Protection against :

(a) *Insect Pests.*

25. In several districts where crops were affected by insect pests, suitable measures to prevent destruction were adopted with beneficial results.

Caterpillars, Hoppers, etc.

In Thana District, sulphur dusting to control hopper attack on mango blossoms was demonstrated on 250 mango trees, with satisfactory results. In Surat, over 2,800 lbs. of sulphur dust was supplied to the cultivators for dusting mango trees against hoppers, and the Bombay Suburban District Rural Development Board sanctioned Rs. 300 for dusting of mango trees.

In the Surat District, the rice crop was severely attacked by swarming caterpillars in Chikhli Mahal and some parts of Bulsar and Bardoli Talukas. For taking suitable control measures, an agricultural officer was specially deputed and fields were dusted with sodium fluosilicate mixture with good results. A pamphlet giving the life-history of the pest and measures to be taken to control it was also published and distributed.

In Kanara, demonstration of sulphur dusting mango inflorescences against hoppers was undertaken by the Rural Development staff in a number of talukas. More than five hundred trees were dusted and it was observed that the dusted branches gave 30 to 40 per cent. more fruits than the undusted ones. Insecticides and fungicides like lead arsenate and sulphur dust etc., were supplied to cultivators in the Patalganga valley of Kolaba District.

A grant of Rs. 240 was sanctioned by the Kaira District Rural Development Board for protection of crops against insect pests, out of which insecticides like sulphur dust, copper sulphate, and lead arsenate were supplied to the agriculturists.

26. In Daskroi Taluka of the Ahmedabad District, satisfactory results were obtained by treating paddy crop against a sucking pest with fish-oil rosin soap, while in the Bombay Suburban District the campaign of cutting affected fronds of cocoanut trees, which was started last year, was continued during the year under report. Demonstration of cutting and burning affected fronds was arranged in respect of 143 trees. Garden owners were satisfied with the demonstrations and about 1,200 other trees were similarly treated. The same method was adopted at Juhu where the pest appeared during the year. In Broach and Panch Mahals, arsenic packets and cynogas dust were supplied to the cultivators for killing rats and white ants which affected jowar and wheat crops.

Other Pests.

(b) *Plant Diseases.*

27. Against various plant diseases, agriculturists are adopting to a great extent preventive and remedial measures which are recommended

by the officers of the Agricultural Department and have proved beneficial by experience.

Use of Sulphur Dust.

28. In almost all districts where jowar crop is grown, the seed is generally treated with sulphur dust to prevent smut. A large number of sulphur packets were distributed for this purpose in Nasik, Bijapur, Ahmedabad, Surat and East Khandesh. In Satara, jowar seed was treated with sulphur dust before sowing over 54,000 acres. In Kanara, sulphur packets sufficient for 500 acres were distributed to prevent smut and the treatment is estimated to have given an increased production of 32,000 lbs.

In addition to its extensive use for prevention of smut, sulphur dust was also used to prevent tambera disease of potato and murda disease of chillies.

Loranthus Cutting.

29. Cutting of loranthus (a parasitic plant on mango trees) received special attention in many districts. In the Bombay Suburban District, demonstration of loranthus cutting was held at Bhandup to explain to the agriculturists the harm done by loranthus and to demonstrate the correct method of eradicating it. In Ratnagiri, a loranthus removal campaign was undertaken on an intensive scale, as a result of which loranthus was removed from about 60,000 trees, while in Kolaba, "Loranthus Removal Day" was observed in 799 villages and 6,658 mango trees were freed from the parasite. In Broach and Panch Mahals also, "Loranthus Removal Day" was observed in some villages.

Use of Bordeaux Mixture.

30. Bordeaux mixture, which is an effective remedy against diseases like Koleroga and betelvine wilt, was used on a large scale in coastal districts. In Kanara, where the koleroga was not so severe during the year, the betelnut trees over an area of 785 acres as against 1,785 acres of the previous year were sprayed with bordeaux mixture. In Thana, the betelvine wilt control scheme at Bassein was continued during the year. Eleven plots were given repeated treatment of bordeaux mixture against the betelvine wilt. Few cultivators could, however, take advantage of this scheme owing to the abnormal rise in the prices of bordeaux mixture. An intensive campaign for spraying betelnut trees affected by Koleroga disease, with bordeaux mixture was undertaken in Vengurla Peta, in Ratnagiri district.

(c) *Wild Animals.*

31. With a view to prevent damage to crops by the ravages of wild animals, gun clubs are being organized on a larger scale in districts which are particularly exposed to such damage. In all there are 74 gun clubs and these were responsible for the destruction of 3,442 wild animals during the year. Co-operative Crop Protection Societies are also playing an important role and more crop protection societies, which aim at

dealing with the problem either by the construction of fences or employment of watchmen, are being organized.

In Satara, 17 gun clubs were instrumental in killing 321 pigs and in protecting an area of over 6,750 acres. These clubs got a grant of Rs. 200 from the District Rural Development Board for the purchase of ammunition. The crop protection societies also saved crops from stray cattle and thieves in an area covering about 42,000 acres. In East Khandesh, 462 wild pigs and 243 blue bulls were killed through the efforts of 15 gun clubs which were given a grant of Rs. 1,500 by the East Khandesh District Rural Development Board for the purchase of weapons and ammunition. The damage to crops is said to have been reduced by about 25 per cent. in this district.

In Kaira, Government has appointed a Special Shikar Officer who has organised 11 gun clubs which were mainly responsible for killing 1,587 blue bulls. The District Rural Development Board sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,500 roughly on the basis of Re. 1 per kill.

In Dharwar, there are 14 gun clubs which have between them 130 guns and which killed 503 wild pigs during the year. This helped to protect crops in a total area of 40,000 acres besides enabling an area of 2,000 acres to be newly brought under cultivation. Similar activities are reported from Kolaba, Kanara and Belgaum.

(5) Horticultural Development.

32. The cultivation of fruits and vegetables is a profitable source of income to the agriculturists, and the District Rural Development Boards took vigorous steps to develop horticultural activities. The main activity under this head was in the direction of supply of reliable plants, seeds, grafts, etc., to the agriculturists.

Supply of plants etc.

33. In several districts, viz., Nasik, West Khandesh, Satara, Ahmednagar, Kaira, Surat, Dharwar and Kanara, various types of plants such as mango grafts, mosambis, santra, grape-vines and other fruit plants according to the needs of each district were supplied by the District Rural Development Boards to selected agriculturists at cost price or concession rates. In Ahmednagar, the transport charges were also borne by the District Rural Development Board. In Bijapur, under the scheme introduced by the Anti-Famine Institute, 795 mango grafts were distributed free of cost to 19 approved cultivators.

In Sholapur, two nurseries were opened from which 2,300 plants were distributed to the villagers free of charge, while in Kanara also it was decided to open a nursery at Haliyal at which 2,000 grafts are expected to be produced annually. In East Khandesh, the District Rural Development Board spent Rs. 250 on an effort to spread the strain of "Meharun-Bor" which is a popular variety in the district.

The work done in Ratnagiri calls for special mention. The Ratnagiri District Rural Development Board undertook a scheme of side grafting of mango trees and sanctioned Rs. 2,000 for the purpose. According to this scheme, the Board agreed to pay 2 annas as subsidy to the Taluka Development Association on condition that the Taluka Development Association and the owner of the tree would bear the remaining cost of grafting (viz., 4 annas), in equal proportion. This resulted in 2,100 country mango trees being successfully grafted with the Alphonso variety. The Board also spent Rs. 300 on a scheme to give an impetus to pineapple cultivation. According to this scheme, persons who cultivated pineapples on an area of not less than five gunthas were given suckers on condition of returning the same number after two years for further distribution. Nearly 5,000 suckers have been distributed to the villagers under this arrangement. To develop cashew tree plantation, seeds to the extent of 2,000 lbs. were distributed to promising cultivators at half the market price through the agency of Taluka Development Associations.

Tree Planting Days.

34. Tree Planting Days were observed in several districts In Ahmednagar, they were observed in three talukas of the district, while in Broach and Panch Mahals, in response to the appeal issued by the Collector for celebrating 27th July 1941 as "Tree Planting Day", more than 1,57,000 trees are said to have been planted in various talukas of the district. "Tree Planting Days" were also observed in West Khandesh, Nasik and Satara and a number of trees were planted at various places.

(6) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

35. The question of the quality of cattle is very important in a country like India where agricultural operations are not carried out with the assistance of power-driven tractors and other machinery, and the reports received from the districts show that the Boards are fully alive to the need of improving the quality of the cattle. During the year many Boards made arrangements for the supply of premium bulls and premium cows, and at many places cattle shows were organized at which prizes were given to the owners of good cattle, and propaganda was carried on to impress on the agriculturists the necessity of maintaining good breeds of cattle.

Premium Bulls.

36. In Ahmedabad, 8 premium bulls were distributed among professional cattle breeders with a subsidy of Rs. 25 per bull. The East Khandesh District Rural Development Board distributed 20 cows in 8 villages which had already either premium or gift bulls with them. In Dharwar,

10 pedigree bulls, 9 cows and 5 heifers have been supplied by the Dharwar District Rural Development Board and are kept in the villages where people are keen upon livestock improvement. In several other districts, viz., West Khandesh, Poona, Satara, Bijapur and Belgaum, the District Rural Development Boards made substantial contributions for the purchase of breeding bulls and cows which were supplied to selected villages at half the cost or else at concession rates.

Cattle Breeding Organizations.

37. In addition to the financial assistance given by the Boards for the purchase of animals of good quality, they have been assisting the organizations set up for the improvement of animal husbandry. In East Khandesh, the District Rural Development Board made grants to the Gilligan and Gangapuri Cattle Breeding Farms. In Surat, a scheme has been drawn up by the Rural Development Board according to which 7 "Cattle Breeding Centres" were started, and 24 bulls and 55 cows were supplied to them. It is expected that later these Centres will be able to supply stud bulls needed in the district. In Thana, the Cattle Breeding Society at Maroli is reported to be doing good work.

In Niphad taluka of the Nasik District, Rs. 5,000 were collected for cattle improvement and it was decided to organize better farming societies at suitable centres with cattle improvement as their special object and to provide breeding bulls out of the amount collected. A beginning was made at Vinchur where the scheme was inaugurated in October 1941 by the Adviser to the Governor.

The Cattle Breeding Farm at Yedhalli in Bijapur was closed down under Government orders and in its stead a "Cattle Breeding and Mixed Farming Project" is being introduced from the current year.

Cattle Rallies.

38. With a view to give an impetus to improvement of livestock, cattle rallies were held in some districts during the year. In Kaira, two cattle rallies were organized, which were presided over by the Collector and prizes were given to the cultivators whose cattle were adjudged to be the best. In Jalgaon, a programme of cattle improvement was observed on Pola Day. Leaflets were distributed and talks given on how to take care of cattle.

Amongst measures taken to improve the quality of cattle a "Cattle Tick Eradication Scheme," financed by the District Rural Development Board, Ahmedabad, under which 5,000 cattle were treated for eradication of ticks in Sanand Mahal, deserves special mention.

Poultry Farming.

39. Efforts were also continued to encourage the agriculturists to take up poultry farming as a subsidiary occupation. In West Khandesh, with the help of a Poultry Kamgar appointed specially for the purpose by the District Rural

Development Board, eggs and chickens of the white Leghorn and Rhode Island Red varieties were supplied to the cultivators. In Thana, white Leghorn hens were supplied to the villagers, while in Sholapur two poultry farms were started and pure breed birds and eggs were supplied to the cultivators from these farms at concession rates. Four enterprising cultivators in this district are reported to have started their own poultry farms on the same lines. In Kaira, a poultry farm is conducted by the District Rural Development Board at Anand, which made available eggs of improved breeds to the poultry owner of the district. In Kanara and Ratnagiri, cocks and eggs of improved varieties were supplied at concession rates to the villagers to encourage poultry farming.

(7) Grass Lands and Fodder Improvement.

40. The work under this head consists mainly of efforts to introduce new varieties of grass and fodder, and the attempts made to train agriculturists in proper methods of conservation of grass and the right lines of grazing.

New Varieties of Grass and Fodder.

41. In Satara, the District Rural Development Board spent Rs. 100 in purchasing lucerne seed and selling it to the cultivators at half the cost. In Halol and Godhra, lucerne seed was supplied free. Napier grass also attracted considerable attention. Experiments in growing Napier grass have been undertaken at the Institute of Agriculture, Anand, while in Kanara also experiments are being conducted to grow Napier grass in specially prepared plots. Seed for this grass has been obtained from the Government Farm at Dharwar and the work which is being conducted under the supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer, E. D., is reported to be showing good results.

Construction of Silos.

42. In Poona, three silos were prepared at three villages, where 69,000 lbs. of grass were stored. The pits were opened in April 1942 and about 100 cattle were fed at each of these centres, and it was noticed that they ate the silage with evident relish. Similar activities are reported from Dharwar and Kanara where two silos were constructed in each district for storing grass.

Controlled Grazing.

43. In Dharwar, the Grazing and Fodder Committee under the chairmanship of the Collector recommended that restricted grazing was beneficial and that to bring it into effect, a small fee of annas two per head of cattle should be levied and the income utilized on the improvement of grazing areas. In Poona, a Rotational Grazing Scheme was started at Donde near Khed under the guidance of the Forest Department, but could not be carried out to the desired extent owing to the sub-normal rains last year.

IV. CO-OPERATION AND MARKETING.

44. The most numerous organised bodies having contacts with the economic life of the agriculturists are agricultural co-operative societies.

It is true that a very large number of these societies are credit societies, which cannot be said to have much direct connection with rural development activities. Of late, however, efforts are being made to broaden the basis of these societies and consequently they have been interesting themselves in, and undertaking different kinds of rural development activities to a larger extent. The number of agricultural non-credit societies which are concerned with agricultural propaganda work and with specific items of rural development such as marketing of agricultural produce, supply of improved seed, manure and improved implements, cattle breeding, fencing etc. increased from 331 to 352 during the year.

(1) Taluka Development Associations and Better Farming Societies.

45. Taluka Development Associations, which increased in number by 4, from 103 to 107, during the year under report, continued to do satisfactory work. They carried on extensive propaganda in regard to agricultural improvements and rural development in general through demonstrations, exhibitions etc., and brought to the notice of the agriculturists the improved implements and methods of cultivation. They also supplied artificial or concentrated manures, insecticides, fruit plants and grafts and improved seeds of different varieties. They proved a very useful agency for carrying to the villages, the programme prepared by the District Rural Development Boards. The work done by these Associations has already been described under suitable heads in the previous chapter. Control of these Associations has now been transferred to Collectors.

Better Farming Societies.

46. Better Farming Societies have almost the same objects as Taluka Development Associations, with this difference that they work in smaller areas than the Taluka Development Associations and concentrate on one or more specified measures of agricultural improvement. They also provide finance within prescribed limits for the purchase of improved seed etc. The number of such societies increased during the year from 33 to 38. These societies are comparatively new organisations and, although it cannot be said that they have become an outstanding success, some of them have made a good start. The Better Farming Society at Dahitne in the Sholapur District got about 200 cart loads of compost prepared by its members. The members of the Bhoj Co-operative Better Farming Society in the Belgaum District kept 41 cows and 2 premium bulls. The society received financial assistance from the District Rural Development Board. Government has also granted a kuran of 25 acres to this Society. The two Better Farming Societies in the Kanara District supplied onions and paddy seeds to its members worth Rs. 766 and also supplied their domestic requirements to the value of Rs. 3,121. The Satral Co-operative Better Farming Society in the Ahmednagar District also worked very successfully and supplied manure and improved implements to its members and encouraged them to follow improved methods of agriculture.

(2) Sale Societies, Agricultural Requisites Societies and Implements Societies.

47. The number of Co-operative Sale Societies increased from 89 to 99.

Bombay Co-operative Marketing Society.

The organisation of the Bombay Co-operative Marketing Society, during the year is another milestone in the progress of the co-operative sale movement in this Province. The Society collected a share capital in the neighbourhood of Rs. 50,000 and is managed by a strong Board of directors nominated by Government. Subsidies up to Rs. 9,000 for the first year and Rs. 8,000 for the second year have been promised by Government if there is a deficit in the cost of management. The Society has made a promising beginning and the volume of the sale and supply work actually done by it indicates that the estimate of its first year's business made at the time of the organisation of the Society would be exceeded substantially.

Cotton Sale Societies.

The Sale Societies in the Surat and Dharwar districts alone sold cotton and lint to the approximate value of Rs. 24,50,523 and Rs. 24,08,794 respectively. The Surat Cotton Sale Societies continued to supply improved seed to the members, to pool their produce and to get it ginned and, if necessary, also pressed before sale. The sale proceeds are distributed amongst members *pro rata*. The system of pooling, ginning and pressing also exists in the northern part of Gujarat, where the Thasra Co-operative Cotton Sale Society sold lint to the value of Rs. 2·19 lakhs. The system was also extended to the East Khandesh and West Khandesh districts during the year where the societies at Yawal and at Shahada made a good beginning. A scheme for the organization of about 24 Cotton Sale Societies in the East Khandesh District on the Surat model was prepared by the Director of Agriculture in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Cotton Superintendent, and other interests involved. It was sanctioned by Government after the close of the year, but 3 Sale Societies had already been registered before. The scheme aims at the spread of Jarillâ cotton and visualizes the pooling of the produce of member agriculturists after ginning and its sale under AGMARK labels under the general guidance of a sales manager who would put the societies in direct touch with consumers or wholesale dealers. Amongst sale societies other than those for cotton, the Nira Canal Purchase and Sale Union and the Kopergaon Purchase and Sale Society, which have been working in the Nira and Godavari canal tracts respectively, did satisfactory work and their business also increased considerably. They supplied oil cake to, and sold gul and other produce of their members and the members of societies affiliated to them, and other agriculturists.

Agricultural Requisites and Implements Societies.

48. Agricultural Requisites and Implements Societies are also doing good work. The area in which they have developed and functioned most successfully, are the two districts of Ahmednagar and Sholapur. They have been stocking large numbers of improved implements, particularly iron ploughs, and rendering useful service to the agriculturists. The moss outstanding examples of success amongst these societies are societies

at Shevgaon and Pathardi which stocked about 400 and 300 iron ploughs respectively.

(3) Multi-purpose Societies, Credit Societies and Central Banks.

Multi-purpose Societies.

49. Multi-purpose Societies also are comparatively recent organisations and have been feeling their way gradually. Their number was already 65 at the beginning of the year, but certain difficulties were being experienced in the working of some of these societies. It was, therefore, considered advisable not to increase the number any further, but to consolidate the position of the existing societies. In the aggregate, they did considerable supply and sale work. The best Multi-purpose Society is the Aldar Multi-purpose Society in the Broach District. Its sale business exceeded Rs. 2 lakhs and it supplied domestic and other requirements to the value of Rs. 10,000.

Rural Development Activities and Credit Societies.

Steps, were however, being taken to see that the existing credit societies which are well-managed and financially strong undertook activities other than credit which would enable them to cater to the different needs of their members. In accordance with this policy, in the district of East Khandesh alone 11 credit societies amended their bye-laws so as to permit them to undertake the work of agricultural supply and sale. To mention only one of these societies, the Mhasawad Agricultural Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society supplied 50 tons of oil cake to its members at Rs. 18 per ton, and stocked 500 bags of pure Jarilla cotton seed and supplied it to its members and also to neighbouring societies. Co-operative Societies also devoted most of their charity funds to the furtherance of rural development activities. To take the instance of the East Khandesh District alone, as many as 25 societies utilised money from charity funds for different rural development activities : 1 for construction of drains, 3 for purchase of stud bulls, 5 for aiding the construction or extension of school buildings, 1 for construction of a library building, 2 to help the establishment of the village libraries, 3 to finance the construction of approach roads, 4 to improve the arrangements for supply of drinking water for cattle, 1 for construction of latrines for women, 2 for purchase of medicine for free supply to the villagers and 3 for financial assistance to educational institutions. The following requisites were distributed amongst members of co-operative societies in the East Khandesh District :—

- 16,000 sulphur dust packets of 2 ounces each.
- 2,000 tons of groundnut cake manure of which 895 tons were supplied on credit.
- 5,486 bags of Jarilla cotton seed.
- 924 pallas of groundnut seed.
- 230 bags of sann seed.
- 10,000 lbs. of wheat seed.

It is reported that in Dharwar District also some credit societies undertook and helped rural development activities, more or less on the same lines. In Sholapur District, the Tadval Agricultural Co-operative Credit Society has opened a dispensary from its own funds. In the same district the Co-operative Credit Societies in Madha Taluka contributed Rs. 3,118 for school buildings in rural areas whereas the Nimbgaon and Dahitane societies have donated for gymnasium and libraries.

Central Banks.

Even some of the central banks have been doing valuable work in this direction. The East Khandesh District Central Co-operative Bank has agreed to supply sulphur dust packets free to all members of co-operative societies. It has also stocked 23,731 bags of pure Jarilla pedigree seed. The Central Bank has been permitted to invest Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the purchase of oil cake manure. Over 1,000 tons of cake manure has already been purchased and indents for the supply of more cakes were being received and collected. The Bombay Provincial Bank and some other central banks also have been doing some work of this kind.

Crop Protection and other Societies.

50. Crop Protection Societies, the number of which rose from 40 to 43, did valuable work in protecting crops against wild or stray animals, thieves, incendiarism etc. Development of Crop Protection Societies is most prominent in the Dharwar, East Khandesh and Satara Districts. Some societies aim at developing village industries. The Honawar Coir Weaving and Spinning Society in the Kanara District, in addition to supplying constant work to producers who belong to a backward class, sold coir articles worth Rs. 1,832. In the matter of education of members of societies, the Hulkoti Education Society in the Dharwar District ran two day-schools for boys, one school for girls and four night-schools. About 120 adults used to receive education in the night-schools conducted by the Society.

(4) General Marketing Work.

51. The Chief Marketing Officer and the staff under him continued to attend to the work in regard to regulated markets, grading and standardization and also, as far as possible, to render help to co-operative purchase and sale, and multi-purpose societies in the disposal of their produce and the purchase of their requirements. During the latter part of the year, the Marketing staff was mainly busy with the collection of weekly statistics required by the Controller of Prices and the Director of Civil Supplies with regard to important markets all over the Province. The Chief Marketing Officer and some of the staff also assisted in the organization of the Bombay Co-operative Marketing Society, about which some details have already been mentioned.

52. *Regulated Markets.*—In the West Khandesh District, there are two cotton markets at Dhulia and Dondaicha and proposals for starting three more regulated cotton markets are under consideration. In the Satara District, a detailed survey of the Karad and Umbraj markets was made in order to regulate the trade in groundnut, and proposals to apply the Agricultural Produce Markets Act to these markets have been submitted to Government. Similarly, two proposals have been submitted by the Marketing Inspector, Nagar, for establishing regulated markets at Wambori and Kopergaon. In the Ahmedabad District, it is proposed to organise regulated markets for cotton at three centres. The necessary proposals have been prepared and are now under consideration of Government. Information regarding the methods of marketing of betelnut, pepper, cardamom and paddy has been collected by the Marketing Inspector for Kanara for drafting proposals for application of the Agricultural Produce Markets Act to the Sirsi Market.

53. *Grading and Standardization.*—Grading and standardization have been making steady, though slow, progress. Efforts in regard to grading were mostly concentrated on cotton, oranges, mosambis, mangoes and eggs.

Cotton.—In Surat, the Cotton Superintendent, with the help of the Marketing Inspector, carried out the work of grading 1027 A. L. F. cotton according to the AGMARK specification. The graded cotton fetched a premium of about Rs. 25 per khandi. More than 4,600 bales of cotton were Agmarked and sold during the season.

Oranges and mosambis.—The grading of oranges and mosambis was done mostly in the districts of Poona, Ahmednagar, East Khandesh and West Khandesh. In Poona, a grader with 18 licensed packers assisted the Marketing Inspector. The District Rural Development Board sanctioned a grant of Rs. 400 for mosambi grading. More than 10,76,000 fruits were graded in the district. In Ahmednagar, the Marketing Inspector arranged for the grading of 4,51,000 mosambis with the help of licensed packers. In the East Khandesh District, the work of grading was undertaken by three co-operative fruit sale societies. The Rural Development Board of the district sanctioned a grant of Rs. 620 to popularize fruit grading and 2,91,000 oranges and mosambis were graded under the supervision of the Marketing Inspector during the year. The margin of profit is reported to have ranged from 5 to 25 per cent. of the sale proceeds. In the West Khandesh District, Mr. Bhuta Nathu Patil of Gujar Jamboli has been authorised by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, Delhi, to undertake fruit grading. About 50,000 oranges and 5,000 mosambis were graded by him.

Mangoes.—The work of grading mangoes was concentrated in Surat and Ratnagiri Districts. The Surat District Rural Development Board helped the grading of alphonso mangoes in Bulsar Taluka and Pardi Mahal. Over 1,27,000 fruits were graded and Agmarked during the season. The graded fruits are reported to have fetched better prices. Four co-operative mango sale societies in the Ratnagiri District were

given the services of graders by the Rural Development Board of the district. 1,87,000 mangoes were graded and packed in 2,360 packages. The graded fruit fetched good prices in Bombay. Moreover, 34 persons were granted certificates of authority for grading mangoes under the AGMARK labels.

Eggs.—The grading of eggs was undertaken mostly in the Ahmedabad, East Khandesh and Poona Districts. In Ahmedabad, as a result of the efforts made to popularise the use of AGMARK eggs, one merchant has undertaken the work of grading. He sells them to petty merchants. It is estimated that about 400 graded eggs are sold daily in Ahmedabad. In the East Khandesh District, egg grading is organised through the Taluka Development Association, Jalgaon. Two kamgars were appointed for the purpose who collected and graded about 8,560 eggs from different villages. In Poona, the Rural Development Board sanctioned Rs. 400 for egg grading.

54. *Price Bulletin.*—The practice of issuing a weekly bulletin of the prices of agricultural commodities prevailing in Bombay on Thursdays was continued during the year. Copies of these bulletins are supplied to all Commissioners, Collectors, Marketing Inspectors and to some of the important co-operative societies and agriculturist producers.

V. GRAIN DEPOTS.

55. Encouraged by the example of Thana District, the work of organizing new grain depots in other districts, particularly in the tracts inhabited by backward classes, was pushed on during the year under report. Grains are stocked at these depots and are advanced to needy cultivators for seed and food purposes and are recovered from them at harvest with interest ranging from 12½ per cent. to 25 per cent. The number of such depots in the Province has increased from 189 to 356 during the year. They distributed grain to the value of Rs. 1,05,000. Fresh loans to the extent of Rs. 19,000 were advanced by Government to the depots. The work done by the various districts in this connection is as under :—

In Nasik, through the agency of seven central depots and 87 sub-depots, grain to the value of Rs. 10,000 was distributed to 1,724 persons. The rate of interest charged to borrowers was 16 2/3 per cent. In West Khandesh, the number of grain depots has increased from 16 to 27 and they are reported to be particularly popular with the Bhils, Pawras and Mavchis residing in backward tracts of the district. These depots received Rs. 15,806 as Government loan and grain worth Rs. 14,209

was distributed amongst 1,629 villagers. The two grain depots already working in Poona have distributed grain to the value of Rs. 8,700 to 1,677 agriculturists. Government sanctioned Rs. 9,000 as interest-free loan for 3 years for the purchase of grain for opening grain depots in Akola Taluka of the Ahmednagar District, with the help of which four grain depots were opened. The existing grain depots have advanced grain to the value of Rs. 3,272 to 3,205 members.

The two depots in Ahmedabad were sanctioned a loan of Rs. 500 each and have distributed grain to the value of Rs. 836. A grant of Rs. 10,300 was placed at the disposal of the Collector for opening grain depots in Panch Mahals of the Broach and Panch Mahals District. These funds enabled the Collector to open 32 grain depots and the District Rural Development Board also made funds available for the opening of four more grain depots. Grain was advanced to cultivators from these depots and was made repayable with an additional 25 per cent. by way of interest. Seven grain depots in Surat distributed grains to the value of Rs. 870. Owing to the failure of the rice crop, the recovery of grain from the borrowers had to be postponed, while the interest had to be completely remitted. In Thana, to the already existing number of grain depots started with the assistance of Rs. 25,000 sanctioned by Government in 1939, new additions have been made during the year with the help of a further grant of Rs. 5,000 sanctioned by Government. A sum of Rs. 3,800 was also specially allotted out of the Collector's discretionary grant for starting more grain depots in Umbergaon and Palghar Talukas where they were badly needed.

In Kanara, 10 grain depots continued working with a total capital of Rs. 4,455. These depots have distributed grain to the value of Rs. 3,547 and their working was on the whole smooth and satisfactory. Through the agency of grain depots in Kolaba, 556 khandis of paddy were loaned out carrying interest at the rate of 25 per cent. to about 12,500 borrowers and about 490 khandis have been recovered from them. In Ratnagiri, with the help of a grant of Rs. 20,000, more grain depots were opened. In all these grain depots nagli and paddy for food as well as for seed purposes are stocked and advanced to cultivators at *savai* rates. The recovery work is on the whole satisfactory, though in a few cases recovery had to be postponed.

VI. RURAL INDUSTRIES.

56. The work under this head consists of help given to the cottage industries like weaving, bee keeping, coir industry, tanning and poultry keeping.

Hand weaving.

57. To assist the handloom weavers, Co-operative Industrial Associations have been organized at various centres where the number of weavers is large. These Associations teach their members new designs and more advanced methods of weaving and dyeing, and also make arrangements for the

supply of raw materials and the disposal of the finished goods. In the beginning of the year, the Associations, along with other weavers, experienced difficulties in obtaining proper qualities of yarn at reasonable rates, but these difficulties diminished later and, on account of military orders, most of these Associations have had a prosperous year. The Sholapur District Co-operative Industrial Association has secured an order worth about Rs. 5 lakhs for the supply of textiles to the Supply Department of the Government of India, while the Ahmednagar District Co-operative Industrial Association has supplied 29,300 army blankets and cotton goods valued at Rs. 2,20,000. The Khandesh District Industrial Co-operative Association, which has been recently registered, has made a good beginning. It was in a position to supply raw material to the local weavers to the extent of Rs. 11,000 and arranged for the sale of their goods to the extent of Rs. 25,200.

To teach weavers and other village artizans improved methods of work, the Industries Department arranged demonstrations and training classes at a number of centres in the Province. They served a very useful purpose, and in some cases the District Rural Development Boards facilitated their task by the grant of financial assistance to the students attending these classes. In Satara, Mr. Bhaurao P. Patil has undertaken the starting of a weaving class and the District Rural Development Board paid Rs. 642 for purchasing equipment for this weaving class.

58. *Tanning.* During the year, special attention was paid in several districts to the development of the tanning industry. Three scholarships of Rs. 20 per month each for 9½ months were awarded by the District Rural Development Board, Ahmedabad, for students attending the artizan course at the Tanning Institute, Bandra. It also made a grant of Rs. 450 for construction of a tanning shed and 6 bag-tan pits at Dholka, the remaining cost being borne by the chamars themselves. In Dharwar District, the tanners at Haveri were helped with a tanning shed. The East Khandesh District Rural Development Board also made grants for developing tanning industry.

59. *Coir Industry.* The coir manufacture industry, which has been organized on a co-operative basis at Honawar in the Kanara District, deserves special mention. The members of the society are producing various kinds of coir articles such as brushes, mattings, door mattings, etc. A Sales Depot has been opened at Karwar for selling products of cottage industries. It supplied 50,000 square feet of bamboo matting worth Rs. 1,000 to the Public Works Department and is satisfactorily fulfilling the need of a sale agency for small handicrafts, which usually suffer for want of such an agency. In Ratnagiri, coir workers at Malwan have organized a co-operative coir society to which a grant of Rs. 200 was given from the rural development funds for initial equipment. In the Panch Mahals Sub-Division of the Broach and Panch Mahals District, rope making industry is encouraged in two villages and a grant of Rs. 100 was made out of the Collector's

discretionary grant for the purchase of sann for rope making. The Dharwar District Rural Development Board deputed one person for training in coir industry at Honawar for popularizing the industry in Hangal taluka.

Bee-keeping.

60. In Kanara, the bee-keeping class established at Honawar was transferred from the Department of Industries to the Agr.cultural Department. A special staff has been appointed to run this class in different centres of the district and is making good progress.

Other Industries.

61. The East Khandesh District Rural Development Board made grants for developing poultry, paper making, *zorya* making and basket making industries. It also purchased a cream separator on the recommendation of the Livestock Expert which will be demonstrated in the villages in ghee producing tracts. The Dharwar District Rural Development Board helped in the supply of raw materials and appliances and awarded scholarships to students undertaking to learn rural industries. Two students from Ranebennur were sent to the Sheep-Breeding Farm, Poona, for learning sheep rearing and wool weaving. Two candidates from the Panch Mahals Sub-Division of the Broach and Panch Mahals District were awarded scholarships and were sent for training in poultry.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS.

62. The need for providing approach roads is very urgent in rural areas—particularly in coastal Districts and hilly tracts—and the Collectors and the Rural Development Boards tried to meet the demand by making grants and also carrying on propaganda amongst the villagers to improve their communications. In a number of Districts in the Central Division, a "Better Village Communications Week" was observed, when special attention was given to the construction and repair of approach roads.

In Nasik, with a grant of Rs. 2,175 repairs to small sections of roads at 40 villages were made during the "Better Village Communications Week", which was observed from the 8th to the 15th March 1942. In East Khandesh, 3 approach roads in each taluka were constructed during the "Better Village Communications Week". The villagers were granted permission to remove stones, murum, sand, earth, etc., free of charge from Government quarries or waste lands. This induced the villagers in several villages which were not otherwise in the programme to improve their approach roads. In Ahmednagar, the District Rural Development Board gave grants for approach roads to the extent of Rs. 1,500 in 12 villages on condition that the villagers contributed 1/3rd of the estimated cost either in cash or by way of labour. The Collector also allotted Rs. 2,531 for repairing roads and drains in 43 villages. During the

"Better Village Communications Week" observed in the district, 23 approach roads were constructed for which the villagers contributed manual labour. In the Sholapur district, the enterprising villagers of Shelgaon in Barsi taluka have prepared a village road with water drainage constructed with cement and concrete from their own resources.

In three villages in Broach and Panch Mahals, streets were paved with stones with the help of a grant of Rs. 5,290 from the District Rural Development Board. The grants were sanctioned after the villagers agreed to contribute a fair share of the cost. In Surat, village roads approximately 13 miles in length in 15 different villages were got repaired or metalled with the help of the Collector's discretionary grant at a cost of Rs. 7,642, the people's contribution in cash or labour amounting to Rs. 3,913.

In Dharwar, the rural public was afforded help through grants on a contributory basis, in the construction of approach roads, village roads, culverts and drainage, etc. The amount of grant given for these purposes was Rs. 1,688. In October 1941, different villages in Kanara observed a "Village Road Day", when village roads exceeding 250 miles in length are reported to have been repaired by voluntary free labour. An appeal was made to every household to give the free labour of one male adult for 3 days, or the money value thereof. The Prant Officers, Mamlatdars, Rural Development Inspectors and Assistant Rural Development Inspectors personally supervised the work, and other officers of the departments helped in making the "Village Road Day" a success. In Ratnagiri, the District Rural Development Board sanctioned a sum of Rs. 20,000 for the construction and repair of village roads of about 36 miles in length. In Belgaum, Rs. 2,607 were spent on the construction and repairs of roads and drains. Owing to the efforts made by Mr. D. R. Thakur roads were improved and drains dug by the villagers of about 80 villages in Chandgad Mahal. In Bijapur, a sum of Rs. 3,228 was made available out of the Collector's discretionary grant to 17 villages which paid their share of the contribution and had better roads constructed for their use. Similarly grants for construction and repairs of village roads and approach roads were made in Poona, Satara, Sholapur, Kolaba, Kaira and Ahmedabad either by the District Rural Development Boards or out of the Collector's discretionary grants.

VIII. IRRIGATION AND WATER SUPPLY.

Provincial Village Water Supply Scheme.

63. The District Rural Development Boards have in the st been trying to help in the provision of irrigation and water supply facilities by making minor grants out of the funds at their disposal, but now their responsibilities and powers in this sphere have been increased very considerably by Government orders issued early in 1941. According to these orders, three lakhs of rupees were earmarked for three divisions

to be spent by the Collectors in consultation with the District Rural Development Boards. During the year under report various Boards approved different schemes of village water supply and sanctioned expenditure in accordance with Government orders.

In Nasik, a grant of Rs. 15,000 was made available for village water supply works out of which only Rs. 3,604 could be spent during the year. This amount was spent on the construction of new wells. In Poona, the District Rural Development Board sanctioned a total grant of Rs. 3,445 for several village water supply works, viz., sinking of wells, construction and deepening of wells, fixing *rahats*, to draw wells, etc., while in Satara, the District Rural Development Board spent Rs. 11,543 for village water supply.

In Kaira, funds to the extent of Rs. 35,000 were made available for carrying out village water supply works which were sanctioned partly by the District Rural Development Board, partly by the Collector from his discretionary grant, and partly from the village water supply grant. This enabled 60 villages to have considerable water supply facilities. In Ahmedabad, the work of village water supply, after it was transferred to the Rural Development Board, was taken up in 8 villages and involved an expenditure of Rs. 19,814. Similarly, in Surat, Rs. 19,684 were spent on village water supply with the help of which 3 incomplete works were completed and 4 new works were carried out.

In Ratnagiri, out of Rs. 50,000 sanctioned by Government for augmenting village water supply, Rs. 14,941 were allotted for carrying out a village water supply scheme in 16 villages.

Minor Water Supply Schemes.

64. In addition to the above works carried out in consultation with the District Rural Development Boards under recent Government orders, several minor grants were made by the Boards themselves or by the Collectors out of their discretionary grants or out of the Government of India grants to augment village water supply facilities. An interesting item in this connection comes from Kanara where, in addition to the grants made by the Rural Development Board for improving the water supply of some villages, a project for a well for Harijans at Kekkar was financed from the discretionary grant of the Collector. In Poona, the Collector sanctioned Rs. 2,426 out of his discretionary grant for improving water supply arrangements in several villages of the Eastern part of the district. In parts of Ahmednagar, where scarcity conditions are common and where the problem of water supply is very acute, the Rural Development Board made minor grants to the extent of Rs. 1,500, while the Collector made a grant of Rs. 2,712 for deepening and repairing the existing wells, construction of water troughs and fixing *rahats*. Grants were also given in several other Districts, viz., Nasik, West Khandesh, Broach and Panch Mahals and Kolaba for better water supply facilities.

IX. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

65. In the sphere of public health and sanitation, the activities of the Rural Development staff and the District Rural Development Boards consisted of propaganda in favour of measures beneficial to the health of the rural population and allotment of grants for maintenance of medicine chests, training village midwives (dais), and assistance to medical practitioners settled in rural areas.

Health Propaganda.

66. In Ahmednagar, a "Public Health Week" was observed in one village in each taluka where lectures on epidemics and their prevention were delivered. Prizes were given to clean and healthy babies and the necessity of keeping them clean and giving them healthy food was impressed upon the rural public.

In Ahmedabad, the District Rural Development Board arranged with the Medical Officer, Sanand, to deliver lectures on sanitation and personal hygiene to Circle Inspectors, Police Constables and Talatis of the Sanand Mahal. They were shown how to teach the villagers to live in sanitary conditions. Leaflets on malaria, cholera, small-pox and child welfare were also distributed. Thirteen allopathic subsidised medical practitioners were asked to give a short course of instruction to school teachers with a view to their imparting the same to the village children.

The Civil Surgeon, Kanara, with the help of his subordinate medical officers, arranged for several lectures on hygiene, water supply, conservancy, vaccination, maternity, child welfare and infectious diseases etc. A sum of Rs. 750 was placed at the disposal of the Civil Surgeon, for purchasing quinine for supply to the villagers. In Kolaba, under the guidance and personal efforts of the Civil Surgeon, propaganda for rural health and sanitation was carried on in Alibag and Pen talukas, and about 8,000 villagers attended the lectures and exhibitions arranged by him.

Prevention of Cholera.

67. In districts where the incidence of cholera is high, the Rural Development Inspectors delivered lectures and persuaded the villagers to get themselves inoculated. Special measures to combat the incidence of cholera were also taken in Satara and Sholapur. In Satara, a motor mobile unit consisting of 3 medical officers, 2 inspectors of sanitation and vaccination and 3 epidemic workers was organised for visiting villages affected by cholera, for mass inoculation and treatment. In Sholapur, to prevent the incidence of the disease at the time of Ashadhi fair, the district was divided into groups of villages which were entrusted to the members of Village Improvement Committees. They got the wells disinfected and assisted in taking preventive measures.

Child Welfare.

68. In several districts special attention was paid to the question of promoting child welfare and training of village midwives. In Satara, the Rural Development Board gave a grant of Rs. 750 to the Satara Health Association which

runs an Infant Welfare Centre, a maternity hospital and a women's and children's hospital at Satara, and supervises maternity centres at 5 villages. In Surat, under the Rural Medical Relief Scheme, three nurse-midwives are employed who, in addition to their ordinary routine work at the dispensaries, pay visits to the houses of poor agriculturists and give advice regarding infant welfare and general sanitation. In Poona, several grants were made by the District Rural Development Board to the child welfare centres. In Nasik, 2 dais were maintained in rural areas partly from donations and partly from grants made by the District Rural Development Board. In West Khandesh also, a trained dai for maternity work was appointed and the cost was borne by the Village Panchayat at Nandurbar and the District Rural Development Board. In Broach and Panch Mahals and Bijapur, steps were taken to get dais trained at Government hospitals. They were given stipends by the District Rural Development Board and the Anti-Famine Institute respectively.

Supply of Medicine Chests.

69. A common method of providing medical relief in areas where there are no qualified doctors is by supply of small medicine chests containing standard medicines, such as quinine, boric acid and tincture of iodine, to persons who have been trained in the use of these medicines and who can make them available to village patients. The Rural Development Boards in many districts provided funds for supply of these medicine chests and training of suitable persons. In Nasik, 19 village teachers were trained in elementary allopathic treatment at the Civil Hospital, Nasik, and were supplied with medicine chests to treat minor ailments in their villages. In West Khandesh, 15 medicine chests were got prepared in consultation with the Civil Surgeon and placed in charge of Government Liquor Depôt Managers. In Panch Mahals, ten table dispensaries were opened with the help of a grant made available by the District Rural Development Board and medicines worth Rs. 200 were provided by the Board.

Other activities.

70. Amongst other activities in the sphere of public health and sanitation, the following deserves special mention.

In Kanara, a "Diwali Cleaning Campaign" was organised in the district and the villagers were asked to clean their dwelling houses and keep the compounds and cattle sheds clean and tidy on the Diwali day. The District Rural development Board, Dharwar, made a grant of Rs. 600 to the Biology section of the Karnatak College under Professor P. W. Gideon for experiments in dealing with diseases like malaria and guinea-worm. In Kolaba, "Village Well Disinfection Day" was observed, when nearly 5,000 wells in 1,811 villages were disinfected. The police officers under the guidance of Mr. G. W. Khot, the District Superintendent of Police, helped considerably in this work. In Ratnagiri, the District Rural Development Board sanctioned Rs. 140 for grant of certificates to villages in which no epidemics have broken out during the last five years and where primary vaccination has been completed.

In Broach and Panch Mahals, the construction of bore hole latrines was taken up for intensive propaganda as a result of which many villages are reported to have decided to have these latrines.

X. EDUCATION.

(1) ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY.

Primary Education.

71. The problem of primary education in rural areas is being tackled through the establishment of schools by the District Local Boards or private schools to which grants are made by the District Local Boards or through voluntary schools managed by private bodies to which grants are made directly by the Educational Department. In some districts, the Rural Development Boards have also made small grants to enable educational institutions to start more schools in rural areas. The scheme for starting primary voluntary schools, which are normally organised in villages with a population of less than 700 and to which equipment and maintenance grants are made by the Educational Department, has made good headway in the Province. The number of these primary schools has increased from 4,412 to 4,730 as has the number of children attending them, which now stands at 30,586.

Adult Education Classes.

72. Adult Education Classes are started in suitable villages with a view to impart education to the adult village population. Most of the Adult Education Classes are held at night to facilitate the attendance of adults who are busy during the day time. Last year there was an appreciable fall in the number of such classes and the number of students who attended them but, owing to the revised scales of Government grants to these classes, there was a substantial rise in the number of classes as well as the adults attending them during the year under report. The number of such classes has increased from 595 to 904 and more than 2,000 adults are receiving training at these classes.

(2) PROVISION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PLAY GROUNDS.

73. More school buildings for accommodating the primary schools in the districts are being built. The efforts made in this direction in Ahmedabad deserve special mention.

XI. GENERAL PROPAGANDA.

SHOWS, PUBLICATIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS, CLASSES, ETC.

74. It has been realised more and more that without constant propaganda and actual demonstrations, the improved methods of agriculture and the use of improved implements, etc., cannot be brought home to the agriculturists. Attempts were made during the year to organise demonstrations, arrange lectures, hold classes, observe village

improvement days or weeks and show cinema films. The "Co-operators' Week" was celebrated throughout the Province and at a number of places not only were meetings organized to carry on propaganda in favour of the co-operative movement, but also lectures were arranged on all matters relating to rural development, and exhibitions arranged to demonstrate improved methods of agriculture. His Excellency the Governor inaugurated the Week at Satara where a big meeting and an agricultural exhibition were organized. The exhibition held at Jalgaon, which was opened by the Adviser to the Governor, was also a great success.

In Nasik, there were 3 big agricultural, industrial and cattle shows organized at Ozar, Chikhali and Chandanpur respectively. Eighty-five demonstrations of standing crops were arranged in Igatpuri for showing the advantages of improved methods of tillage, manures, seed, etc. A "Health Week" was inaugurated in Nasik by the Adviser to the Governor, under the auspices of the District Health Association which has now been revived.

"Farmers' Weeks" or "Days" were observed at several places when lectures were delivered by the departmental officers and exhibitions were arranged. Several Taluka Development Associations arranged demonstrations of standing crops, control methods of plants pests, and manurial treatments. In some districts cattle rallies were held and prizes were awarded to the owners of good cattle. Pamphlets and other publications on rural development were also distributed.

Village Uplift Vans.

75. Another direction in which village propaganda was carried out was through the instrumentality of Village Uplift Vans. These vans are under the control of the Divisional Commissioners and systematic tour programmes are arranged for them in the various districts. They are usually equipped with magic lanterns, loud speakers and gramophones and contain charts and other model exhibits. Officers of different departments co-operated and delivered lectures, showed cinema slides in the course of the programmes of the vans, on various subjects such as sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and agricultural improvements.

Village Film Scheme.

76. The Village Film Scheme provides yet another means by which propaganda can be carried on to educate the villagers. The scheme aims at combining war publicity with diffusion of useful knowledge on other subjects. It naturally attracts better audiences on account of its novelty. The Director of Information supplies projectors and various films on the war and other subjects. In most districts, the members of the War Committees also associated themselves with the programmes and delivered lectures on the subject of the war and kindred questions.

XII. TRAINING CENTRES FOR RURAL ASSISTANTS.

77. The scheme for training Rural Assistants for propaganda and rural development work in villages was continued during the year. Candidates were selected from various districts and were trained at one non-official centre at Bordi and 4 official centres at Broach, Dhulia, Manjri and Devihosur. Candidates were trained for the first 9 months according to the common syllabus and specialized training for the last three months, which was in the past given at Poona, was also given at the five centres. In all 119 students received training.

78. In accordance with Government instructions issued in March 1942, those candidates who can be usefully employed, and whose suitability for a particular department has been ascertained, will be employed in existing posts in Government service or elsewhere. Some of them will be absorbed as secretaries of co-operative societies which agree to employ them. The societies will not have to pay for their services during the first year, but they will be available for propaganda work in and near the village to which they are posted. Some will be employed as secretaries of Village Panchayats or Kamgars at Taluka Demonstration Centres, while others for whom no appointments can be found will be attached to the departments for which they are suitable as additions to the existing staff of those departments.

Your obedient servant,

S. M. IKRAM,

Registrar of Co-operative Societies and
Director of Rural Development.

Accompaniments : Statements 1 to 4.

STATEMENT No. 1.

Expenditure on Rural Development during the financial year 1941-42.

	Rs.	
General Administration—		
W-1 Rural Development Staff—		
(1) Pay of Establishment	99,408	
(2) Allowances and Honoraria	33,996	
(3) Contingencies	11,801	
	1,45,205	
Discretionary grants to Collectors for Rural Development ..	1,39,528	
District Rural Development Boards—		
(1) Pay of Establishment	19,494	
(2) Allowances and Honoraria	2,890	
(3) Contingencies	6,749	
	29,133	
Prizes in connection with Village Improvement Schemes ..	1,900	
Economic development and improvement of rural areas ..	1,69,606	
Special Development Programme	86,146	
Total ..		5,71,518
Agriculture—		
Grant-in-aid, contributions—		
(*a*) Subsidies to Taluka Development Associations ..	39,252	
(*b*) Cotton Seed Distribution Schemes	70,162	
Agricultural Demonstration and Propaganda, etc.—		
(1) Taluka Demonstration centres	11,063	
(2) Seed multiplication and distribution	13,308	
(3) Cotton Transport check Stations	4,816	
Special Development Programme—		
(*a*) Training of Rural Assistants	1,03,415	
(*b*) Bunding and Dry Farming Survey Scheme ..	37,167	
(*c*) New Additional Taluka Demonstration Centres ..	4,964	
Total ..		2,84,147
Co-operation—		
Grant-in-aid—		
(1) Grant-in-aid to Co-operative Marketing, Co-operative Production and Better Farming Societies	7,752	
(2) Grant-in-aid to Multi-purpose Societies	1,063	
(3) Grant-in-aid to Local Bodies (Cotton Market Committees)	150	
Scheme for improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India—		
(1) Pay of Officers	13,130	
(2) Pay of Establishment	5,773	
(3) Allowances and Honoraria	6,513	
(4) Contingencies	1,984	
Total ..		36,365
Grand Total ..		8,92,030

STATEMENT No. 2.

Distribution of Manures.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Total amount spent by District Rural Development Boards, Taluka Development Associations and other Societies or Associations, for supplying manures.		Main kinds of manures supplied.
1	2	3		4
		Quantity.	Amount.	
		Lbs.	Rs.	
1	Kaira	14,46,813	....	Castor cakes, groundnut cakes, Vanchhia cakes, sulphate of ammonia, bonemeal, denatured salt, sann seed.
2	Broach and Panch Mahals.	2,120	....	Groundnut cake, sann seed.
3	Thana	2,34,637	....	Sulphate of ammonia, groundnut cake, bonemeal, red label mixture, denatured salt.
4	Ahmednagar ..	15,29,108	....	Ammonium sulphate, oil cakes, bonemeal.
5	East Khandesh ..	38,351+ 44,80,000 supplied by Co-operative Institutions.	....	Sann seed, lucerne seed, groundnut cake manure.
6	West Khandesh ..	3,61,889	8,234	Ammonium sulphate, groundnut cake, caster cake, sann seed, bonemeal, red label mixture, niciphos.
7	Nasik	3,47,200	....	Groundnut oil cake.
8	Poona	....	760	Oil cakes, sann seed.
9	Satara	3,91,721	....	Sulphate of ammonia, oil cakes, groundnut castor, sann seed, bonemeal, red label mixture.
10	Sholapur ..	18,18,072	....	Sulphate of ammonia, oil cakes, groundnut cake, castor cake, sann seed, bonemeal, red label mixture.

Statement No. 2—contd.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Total amount spent by District Rural Development Boards, Taluka Development Associations and other Societies or Associations, for supplying manures.		Main kinds of manures supplied.
1	2	3		4
		Quantity.	Amount.	
		Lbs.	Rs. a. p.	
11	Belgaum ..	4,65,192	....	Oil cakes, sulphate of ammonia, sann seed, bonemeal, red label mixture, denatured salt.
12	Bijapur ..	9,774	....	Sulphate of ammonia, oil cakes, sann seed, bonemeal.
13	Dharwar ..	70,775	....	Groundnut cake, manure bonemeal, red label mixture salt.
14	Kanara ..	73,844	....	Sulphate of ammonia, oil cakes, groundnut cake, manure bonemeal, red label mixture, fish manure.
15	Ratnagiri ..	....	120 8 0	Ammonium sulphate, oil cake, bonemeal, etc.

STATEMENT No. 3.

Seed Distribution Work.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Banilla cotton and other cotton varieties.	Jarilla cotton.	Akola Bajri and other varieties.	Wheat of different varieties.	1027 A. L. F. cotton.	Ground-nut of different varieties.	Sugar cane.	Jowar of different varieties.	Rice of different varieties.	Other seeds.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Sets.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
1	Ahmedabad	8,990	..	11,710	44,885	..	180	..	..	..	130
2	Kaira	92,652	..	5,310	69,841	980	..	..	49,757	480	37,793
3	Broach and Panch Mahals	..	..	201	1,22,701	..	..	..	2,801	..	1,255
4	Surat	..	..	..	..	10,38,837	..	..	11,660	..	..
5	Thana	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39,330	..
6	Ahmednagar	39,307	4,040	57,670	49,655	..	23,062	73,000	85,769	..	1,59,600
7	East Khandesh	..	..	5,340	68,560	..	..	..	..	..	..
8	West Khandesh	800	35,840½	15,758½	2,88,154½	11,758	95,820	1,09,230	3,511½	12,900	5,505
9	Nasik	..	1,03,090	3,240	7,720	..	..	..	4,800	4,450	95,350
10	Poona	18,760	..	8,160	6,782	..	..	..	33,578	..	15,550
11	Satara	..	..	2,786	4,782	..	16,191	..	10,154	2,199	..
12	Sholapur	37,400	18,435	314	3,992	..	7,130	2,15,000	75,311	40	108
13	Belgaum	5,35,862	..	..	34,454	..	9,839	10,58,750	9,565	59,592	3,615
14	Bijapur	20,48,428	..	..	4,320	..	896	..	55,680	..	116
15	Dharwar	..	48,69,327	..	3,548	..	19,677	..	24,000	1,68,300	1,646
16	Kanara	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,09,100	514
17	Ratnagiri	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54,800	2,000

STATEMENT No. 4.

Land Development.

Serial No.	Name of the District.	Length of the bunds constructed during the year. (in feet).	Area of land protected by bunds. (in acres)
1	2	3	4
1	Ahmedabad	5,000	100
2	Broach and Panch Mahals	2,30,300	1,490
3	Thana	9,150	15
4	Ahmednagar	..	4,043
5	West Khandesh	2,75,127	5,094
6	Nasik	..	3,774
7	Satara	..	1,297
8	Sholapur	1,42,125	2,002
9	Belgaum	33,000	362
10	Bijapur	3,95,952	5,589
11	Dharwar	3,05,850	1,406

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